



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT  
AUGUST 14, 2014**

**Special Meeting:** The Special Meeting of the Common Council was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Councilman Thomas J. Serra, Councilwoman Mary A. Bartolotta, Councilwoman Hope P. Kasper, Councilman Robert P. Santangelo, Councilman Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Councilman Carl R. Chisem, Councilman Gerald E. Daley, Councilman Sebastian N. Giuliano, Councilwoman Sandra Russo Driska, Councilwoman Deborah A. Kleckowski, Councilman David Bauer; Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.

**Absent:** Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan and Councilman James B. Streeto.

**1. Mayor calls meeting to order.**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Chair declares the call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

**2. Public Comment Opens**

The chair opens public comment at 6:32 p.m.

**3. Public Comment Closes.**

Seeing no members of the public wishing to speak, the Chair closes public comment at 6:33 p.m.

**4. Resolution:**

A. Draft report s submitted to the Council by the Charter Revision Commission.

**Resolution No. 103-14**

**File Name ccharterdraftreportwithrecommendations2014**

**Description Approving recommendations to reconsider to the Charter Revision Commission to amend the draft report as stated in the resolution. (AMENDED AND APPROVED)**

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Revision Commission submitted its draft report to the City and Town Clerk on July 25, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the report listed 17 recommendations for the Common Council to consider sending to its citizens for approval at the November election.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN:** That the Council agrees with the following recommendations as presented in the draft report:

2. Mayor's Term to 4 years
4. Council's Term to 4 years
6. Removing Sheriffs from City Officials
7. Changing the name of City Attorney to General Counsel
10. Changing the name of Mayor's Administrative Assistant to Chief of Staff

11. Permanent Vacancy in the Office of the Mayor to account for a four-year term
13. Four year terms for the elected officials of Board of Assessment Appeals and Registrars of Voters.
14. Maintaining staggered terms of Board of Education and Planning and Zoning
15. Amending Biennial Election where appropriate
16. Amending the Board of Tax Review name to Board of Assessment Appeals
17. Adding language for the odd-year elections to reduce Municipal Polling places as stated

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Council recommends the following for reconsideration:

1. Leave the Treasurer as an elected position with no changes to Chapter II, Section 2 and Chapter IV, Section 4.
3. Mayor's Compensation to start at \$100,000 and remove all language regarding CPI and tax shelter annuity of \$15,000 with language that the Council will have the responsibility to budget salary increases annually, Chapter VI, Section 1.
5. Council's stipend to start at \$8,400 and remove all language regarding CPI with language that the Council will have the responsibility to budget salary increases annually, Chapter III, Section 1 and Chapter III, Section 4.
8. Leave Chapter III, Section 7B, the way it is except to change the title City Attorney to General Counsel.
12. Authority of the Common Council to set salaries and stipends for elected officials to remain the same, with wording to effect the changes of 3 and 5.
- 27B. Reconsider Chapter VIII, Section 1 Planning and Zoning to reduce the affirmative votes needed to reflect the State Statute of requiring a simple majority of affirmative votes.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the Council recommends that three ballot questions be developed if the final report is approved as follows:

1. Address four year elected terms for all elected officials that the Commission recommends for 4-year terms. Chapter I, Section 4, Chapter II, Section 1 and 4, Chapter III, Section 1 and 8E, Chapter IV, Sections 1 and 4
2. Address raising the bond approval to \$1,000,000 from \$750,000, Chapter IX, Section II
3. Address all other issues under consideration

Fiscal Impact: None

Councilman Thomas J. Serra reads and moves to approve a resolution accepting certain areas of the draft report and requesting the Charter Revision Commission review other areas of their report. Councilman Gerald E. Daley seconds the motion. Councilman Serra is recognized and states he would like to make the members of the public aware of this; we did not come to consensus in our caucus on the four year term or the \$1 million. We decided to let the people decide on those issues. The rest, except for the treasurer where there were many individuals against this at the last meeting and this is the fifth time it has been recommended to remove it, we would like it to stay. On the salary, the council sets the salary every two years and the caucus felt they should set it for the term which is why we ask that you remove the CPI. We urge the three questions. However we did a 3% quick when this was done five years ago and the bonding number came out \$900,000 and it is close to \$1 million.

Councilman Giuliano states I had some comments on the draft report and he will try to stick to the order of the report. The first is eliminating treasurer; he thought it was a good recommendation. If we have a bond sale, the Treasurer has to come to Town Hall two times. These are duties that are carried out by the Finance Director. The City Treasurer by statute takes care of disbursements, but we have a Finance Department. The idea of a four year term for Mayor is acceptable for all of us; it was recommended in 2008 and didn't get to the voters. A four year term for the council is tough; it should remain at two years and he believes the full Council should be elected on the off year of

the mayoral election. Staggered terms are two impractical with half running on the Mayor cycle and 1/2 that doesn't. It would make some elections are more important when none should be. If you keep the council at two years, you don't have that problem. There is a suggestion from the minority caucus to remove the Mayor as the presiding Council and thought that it would better establish the lines of the executive body and legislative body. If they do that they should appoint corporation counsel. Items 5-8 are on bonding and if we go to \$1million, we should require a supermajority or we put a cap on that. Since we went from \$500,000 to \$750,000 we take bigger projects and chop it into 749,999 with the intention of avoiding the public's right of referendum. If they go to \$1 million, there should be some protections for the public for doing this. We should set a cap. The public has approved many initiatives that are well planned and we shouldn't fear going to the public with a referendum issue. Getting to a supermajority, no one is going to oppose something for no reason. We should not entertain. Setting the mayor salary by charter is a wise move and having the council have some authority over the salary gives the Council some control. There is nothing magical but the formula is neutral. This does not need to be every year and it should be done once per term. Once that salary is set it should remain for the term. A retirement package is governed by federal law and to carve something in the charter where we have no control is not wise. The mayor is a unique position and you could adopt a unique provision by the pension board. The idea of having city attorney review petitions and take the town clerk out is a good idea.

The separate budgets and taxing district for school district was not what they thought; however the school budget is the one the Mayor has no authority over it; the Board of Education adopts it and a recommendation come from Mayor. The budget should be received by the Council from the Board of Education and act on it. The Council sets the tax rate and the form of the bill is an administrative decision. It is a decision as to what form the bill will take. The discussion on a Fire district he is glad the commission didn't deal with that. Eminent domain all should be dealt with by the Council and if more is needed a super majority might fit in. The budget approval process, you don't need a change. It was not changed in 2008. Compensation of the Council should not be in the charter, unlike the situation with the Mayor. All city offices should be four year terms and you are doing that to avoid an election, that is not a good reason but for stability of the office, that is good decision. We can't go to a full four year cycle anyway. There are general recommendations to change city attorney to General Counsel and Mayor's administrative Assistant to Chief of Staff. General Counsel is a department and to carve it into the charter is not wise. The mayor's administrative assistant is just that and mayors use that position the way they want. Giving the title chief of staff imply duties that don't exist. There is no job anywhere that reports to that position. It raises a rhetorical question what staff is he chief of. He asks that you consider his comments.

Chair asks if there is further discussion; seeing none, he calls for the vote.

It is 8 aye votes by Councilman Thomas J. Serra, Councilwoman Mary A. Bartolotta, Councilwoman Hope P. Kasper, Councilman Robert P. Santangelo, Councilman Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Councilman Carl R. Chisem, Councilman Gerald E. Daley, Councilwoman Sandra Russo Driska; 3 nay votes by Councilman Sebastian N. Giuliano, Councilwoman Deborah A. Kleckowski, Councilman David Bauer and 1 absent by Councilman James B. Streeto. The Chair states the matter carried with 8 affirmative votes, 3 in opposition and 1 absent.

**5. Meeting adjourned.**

The Chair adjourns the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O. NORWOOD  
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK